

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**Call to Order:** Chair Seth Berglee, on January 16, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 137  
Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Seth Berglee, Chair (R)  
Rep. Moffie Funk, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Fred Anderson (R)  
Rep. Jacob Bachmeier (D)  
Rep. Becky Beard (R)  
Rep. Bryce Bennett (D)  
Rep. Amanda Curtis (D)  
Rep. Edward Greef (R)  
Rep. Jean Price (D)  
Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R)  
Rep. Scott Staffanson (R)  
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)  
Rep. Peggy Webb (R)  
Rep. Susan Webber (D)

**Members Excused:**

Rep. Jeff Essmann, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Greg Hertz (R)  
Rep. Casey Schreiner (D)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Jessica Riffel, Committee Secretary  
Laura Sankey Keip, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 119, 1/12/2017; HB 161, 1/12/2017; HB 185, 1/12/2017

**HEARING ON HB 185**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:19 Rep. Shane Morigeau (D), HD 95, opened the hearing on HB 185, Establish grant program to eliminate tuition for certain postsecondary programs.

**EXHIBIT(edh11a01)**

00:01:51 Rep. Schreiner joined the meeting

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:10:18 Tom Arvidson, Self

**EXHIBIT(edh11a02)**

00:12:01 Rep. Bachmeier

00:13:03 Laura Cova, Self

00:14:13 Jordan Thompson, Salish Kootenai Tribe

00:16:50 Rep. Webber

00:18:41 Jonathan Cova, Self

00:20:25 Roberta Crane, Self

**EXHIBIT(edh11a03)**

00:21:48 Andy Bixler, Montana Associated Students (MAS)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

00:24:23 Tyler Trevor, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:24:47 Rep. P. Webb

00:25:17 Rep. Morigeau

00:26:12 Rep. P. Webb

00:26:17 Rep. Morigeau

00:29:09 Rep. Beard

00:29:34 Rep. Morigeau

00:30:18 Rep. Beard

00:30:25 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway

00:31:09 Tyler Trevor, OCHE

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:32:13 Rep. Morigeau

**HEARING ON HB 161**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:36:26 Rep. Jacob Bachmeier (D), HD 28, opened the hearing on HB 161, Revise laws related to state funding of higher education.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:39:09 Andy Bixler, Montana Associated Students (MAS)

00:41:17 Abigail Belcher, Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM)  
 00:42:13 Katie Westoff, Montana Public Interest Group (MontPIRG)  
 00:43:03 Roberta Crane, Self  
 00:43:25 Laura Cova, Self  
 00:43:44 Tom Arvidson, Self  
 00:44:07 Jordan Thompson, Salish Kootenai Tribe  
 00:44:18 Rep. Morigeau

**Opponents' Testimony:** None**Informational Testimony:**

00:45:06 Tyler Trevor, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:45:23 Rep. Staffanson  
 00:46:21 Rep. Bachmeier  
 00:47:03 Rep. Staffanson  
 00:47:28 Rep. Bachmeier  
 00:48:03 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway  
 00:48:16 Rep. Bachmeier  
 00:49:01 Tyler Trevor, OCHE

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:49:35 Rep. Bachmeier

**HEARING ON HB 119****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:51:33 Rep. Seth Berglee (R), HD 58, opened the hearing on HB 119, Revise quality educator loan assistance program.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:57:33 Dennis Parman, Montana Rural Education Association (MREA)  
 01:03:11 Diane Burke, Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC)  
 01:04:23 Rodger Hagan, North East Rural Schools  
 01:04:58 Kris Hansen, Self  
 01:05:49 Kirk Miller, School Administrators of Montana (SAM)  
 01:09:02 Marko Ferro, Montana Education Association-Montana Federation of Teachers (MEA-MFT)  
 01:11:34 Bob Vogel, Montana School Boards Association (MSBA)  
 01:12:32 Jordan Thompson, Salish Kootenai Tribe

**Opponents' Testimony:** None**Informational Testimony:**

01:13:01 Ron Muffick, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:13:32 Rep. Vinton  
 01:14:23 Rep. Berglee

01:14:45 Kris Hansen, Self  
01:15:09 Ron Murffick, OCHE  
01:15:22 Rep. Schreiner  
01:16:09 Rep. Berglee  
01:16:47 Rep. Schreiner  
01:17:07 Rep. Berglee  
01:17:46 Rep. B. Bennett  
01:18:21 Rep. Berglee  
01:18:58 Rep. B. Bennett  
01:19:33 Kris Hansen, Self  
01:21:10 Rep. B. Bennett  
01:21:22 Vice Chair Funk  
01:21:35 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway  
01:22:14 Rep. Berglee  
01:22:32 Rep. Price  
01:23:02 Dennis Parman, MREA

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:23:33 Rep. Berglee

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 01:26:07

---

Jessica Riffel, Secretary

jr

Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([edh11aad.pdf](#))